



# NOAA FISHERIES

## Sustainable Fisheries

### 2014 Quarter 1 Update through March 30, 2014

**2014 Quarter 1 Score = 631.5** (January 1, 2014 to March 30, 2014)

#### Overview

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) is a performance measure for the sustainability of 227<sup>1</sup> U.S. fish stocks<sup>2</sup> selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries. The FSSI will increase as stock status becomes known, overfishing is ended, and stocks increase to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield.

#### FSSI Scoring Method

The FSSI is calculated by assigning a score for each fish stock based on the five following criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
1. “Overfished” status is known	0.5
2. “Overfishing” status is known	0.5
3. Overfishing is not occurring (for stocks with known “overfishing” status)	1.0
4. Stock biomass is above the “overfished” level defined for the stock	1.0
5. Stock biomass is at or above 80% of the biomass that produces maximum sustainable yield ( $B_{MSY}$ ) <sup>3</sup> (this point is in addition to the point awarded for being above the “overfished” level)	1.0

The maximum score each stock may receive is 4. The value of the FSSI is the sum of all 227<sup>1</sup> individual stock scores. The maximum total FSSI score is 920, achieved if all 227<sup>1</sup> stocks were to each receive a score of 4.

<sup>1</sup> The FSSI previously contained 230 stocks. Gulf of Mexico stone crab and little tunny are no longer managed under federal fishery management plans (FMPs), and Gulf of Mexico black grouper is now managed as a combined Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic stock under the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Snapper-Grouper FMPs. To provide continuity in the FSSI, the final point score for these 3 stocks remains in the index until FY 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The majority of species are assessed as a single stock; however, there are a few that are assessed as a stock complex, which contain a group of species with similar geographic distribution, co-occurrence in fisheries, and life history.

<sup>3</sup> Stocks rebuilding from a previously overfished condition are not awarded the fourth point until they reach  $B_{MSY}$ , as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. After they have been fully rebuilt, they may fluctuate within the 80% parameter and retain the score of 4 like the other non-rebuilding stocks.

## Summary of Changes for FSSI stocks from January 1, 2014 through March 30, 2014

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous FSSI Score	Current FSSI Score
Albacore - North Pacific	PFMC / WPFMC	$B/B_{MSY} < 80\%$	$B/B_{MSY} > 80\%$	3	4
Blue king crab - Saint Matthews Island	NPFMC	$B/B_{MSY} > 80\%$	$B/B_{MSY} < 80\%$	4	3
<b>Total FSSI Score</b>				<b>631.5</b>	<b>631.5</b>

## FSSI Stocks through March 30, 2014

### Overview of overfishing status

- 196 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
  - 171 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
  - 25 stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 31 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

### Overview of overfished status

- 181 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
  - 145 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (4 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
  - 36 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
  - 46 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

## Summary of Changes for non-FSSI stocks from October 1, 2013 through March 30, 2014

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status
Kamchatka flounder - Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands	NPFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished

## Non-FSSI Stocks through March 30, 2014

### Overview of overfishing status

- 104 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
- 101 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing
- 3 stocks have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 147 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

### Overview of overfished status

- 50 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
- 46 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (1 of these stocks is approaching an overfished condition).
- 4 stocks are overfished.
- 201 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm#07>